

What's New

**Celebrate Earth Day – April 22 - New evidence – Old is the New Green.**



[www.preservationnation.org/information-center/sustainable-communities/sustainability/green-lab/](http://www.preservationnation.org/information-center/sustainable-communities/sustainability/green-lab/)

This spring, the National Trust for Historic Preservation released a major technical report on Building Reuse, which provides in-depth information on the environmental benefits of reusing existing buildings. The study, entitled "The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Value of Building Reuse," applies modern Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodologies to this topic. The study compares the reuse of an existing building with the construction of a comparable new building for six different building types in four different weather zones. The results vary somewhat, but the overall conclusion is that it takes decades for a new building to save enough resources, particularly energy resources, to make up for the resources required to construct it in the first place. If anything, the study methodology errs on the side of new buildings, so that critics of building preservation can't pick at the details. The historic preservation community has needed this study for years, as the topic was last explored back in 1980. Kudos to the National Trust, the Preservation Green Lab, and the consulting team for this timely and impressive report. "The greenest building really is the one that already exists!"